

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 10, 12-17, 19, 21-28, and 31-34 are pending, with claims 20 and 29 being canceled. Applicants acknowledge the allowable subject matter of claims 1, 10, 12-17, 19, 21-28, and 31-34.

Claim Objections

Claim 20 has been canceled to remove this objection and claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Consequently, applicants respectfully submit that these claim objections should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 29 stands rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,925,409 (Nava) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,409,270 (Faber). Applicants have canceled claim 29 to remove this ground of rejection, but respectfully submit that cancellation of this claim in no way acquiesces to any ground of rejection. Rather, this amendment is made to expedite the issuance of the application.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration is courteously requested. If there are any remaining issues which can be expedited by a telephone conference, the examiner is courteously invited to telephone counsel at the number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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